

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 155500
ORIGIN ARA-14

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, US, PN

SUBJECT: PERIODIC ACTIVITIES REPORT, JUNE 10-16

1. DEFORESTATION CONFERENCE: JUNE 12-14 AID AND STATE
HOSTED A CONFERENCE OF U.S. GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE
EXPERTS ON DEFORESTATION OF TROPICAL FORESTS. ISSUES
RELATED TO PANAMA FORESTS AROSE SEVERAL TIMES DURING
CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS. DR. FRANK WADSWORTH OF THE U.S.
FORESTRY SERVICE PRESENTED A PAPER GRAPHICALLY DESCRIBING
THE DANGERS OF DEFORESTATION TO THE CANAL WATERSHED AND
THEIR FUTURE CONSEQUENCES. SUBSEQUENT WORKSHOPS MENTIONED
THE PANAMA EXAMPLE SEVERAL TIMES AND THE AID WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PROJECT ATTRACTED A GOOD DEAL OF INTEREST.

2. CONGRESSIONAL: A) THE PANAMA CANAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF
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HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE WILL HOLD
HEARINGS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEA-LEVEL CANAL COMMISSION.
SENATOR GRAVEL WILL TESTIFY JUNE 21 ON HIS AMENDMENT FOR
THIS PURPOSE WHICH THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED. ON JUNE 27
AMBASSADOR POPPER AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION WITNESSES WILL
TESTIFY ON THE AMENDMENT AND TWO BILLS WHICH CHAIRMAN
MURPHY HAS SUBMITTED TO THE HOUSE.

B) REP. HANSEN OF IDAHO HAS SUCCESSFULLY ATTACHED AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE AND DOD AUTHORIZATION BILLS PROHIBITING

EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE CANAL TREATIES. THE DEPARTMENT IS SEEKING TO ELIMINATE THEM IN THE SENATE OR MODIFY THEM IN CONFERENCE. A SIMILAR RIDER ON THE DOT APPROPRIATION BILL WAS DEFEATED.

3. EX-IM BANK LETTER OF INTEREST: ON JUNE 14 THE EX-IM BANK BOARD MODIFIED ITS LETTER OF INTEREST TO PANAMA TO PROVIDE THAT THE FIVE-YEAR COVERAGE PERIOD WOULD BEGIN ON JULY 1, 1978 OR WHEN THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON ECONOMIC AND MILITARY COOPERATION TAKES PLACE, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER. VANCE

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